

Reduce heart disease and cancer risk at the same time

By Dr. Graham A. Colditz Siteman Cancer Center



country experiencing an early thaw, winter starts to feel a bit long come February, particularly during the ongoing pandemic. The days are still

short. The temps are still low. And the trees are still mostly bare.

Yet, even amidst all that, we can take heart. Not just because we're about to crest into the first days of spring and the promise of highly effective COVID-19 vaccines, but because February is literally "Heart" month - American Heart Month, a federally designated month focused on the importance of heart disease and taking steps to help prevent and manage it.

On top of this, February also is National Prevention Cancer



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Month, which is quite apt, since lower your risk of heart disease and heart disease and cancer are typi-Even in parts of the cally the top two leading causes of death in the U.S. Together, they account for about 1.2 million deaths each year, taking an incredible toll on individuals and families, and on the nation's health as a whole.

But there's a positive message in the middle of such depressing numbers. About three out of four heart disease cases and two out of four cancers could be avoided with overall healthy lifestyles. And most of the steps that lower the risk of one disease also lower the risk of the other.

Shared health behaviors that can lower the risk of both heart disease and cancer include the following: · Avoiding tobacco (and second-

- hand smoke)
- Maintaining a healthy weight • Being physically active
- Eating a healthy diet rich in fruits, vegetables and whole grains, and low in unhealthy fats and red or processed meat

· Getting screening tests for certain cancers and heart disease risk factors. Talk with a doctor about which apply to you.

Health recommendations often fall into silos of information. Breast cancer in this silo. Heart disease in that one. And colon cancer over there. This can make it easy to miss how important some basic healthy behaviors can be for preventing many key chronic diseases. Yet it's hard to overstate the potential impact of a handful of healthy behav-

So, while we're getting ready to shed some layers and get safely outside more often as the calendar moves toward spring, why not use these last weeks of winter to think about one or two things you can do to give a boost to your health and Siteman Cancer Network.

cancer?

Here are a handful of ideas to

- consider: · Add one more piece of fruit to
- · Buy that cereal that has whole grains as a first ingredient.

your lunch a few days a week.

- · Search for some new meatless
- recipes to try. · Visit smokefree.gov for infor-
- mation about quitting smoking. • Try to do something physically

active most days - no matter how

• Call your clinic or doctor's office to see if you're up-to-date on recommended health screenings. If you're not, make a plan with your provider to get back on track. Your county health department can be another great resource.

Unfortunately, the pandemic is going to be with us through much of this year, at least. So it remains important to keep ourselves and others safe as we make progress against it. But it's also important that we continue to look after our overall health as well, even if that's more complicated to do than it has been in past years. The benefits are well worth it. You've got this.

It's your health. Take control. For personalized prevention plans and an estimate of your risk of cancer, heart disease and other conditions, yourdiseaserisk.com..

Dr. Graham A. Colditz, associate director of prevention and control at Siteman Cancer Center at Barnes-Jewish Hospital and Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis, is an internationally recognized leader in cancer prevention. Phelps Health and the Delbert Day Cancer Institute (DDCI) are part of the

COLLEGE ANNOUNCEMENTS

Drury Announces Fall 2020 Dean's List

SPRINGFIELD, MO (January 15, 2021) - Earning a spot on Drury University's Dean's List is a significant accomplishment; it means a student earned a grade point average of 3.6 or greater (on a 4-point scale) while carrying a full-time course load of 12 or more semester hours at Drury, a top Midwestern university, according to US News & World Report.

In the fall semester, the following student(s) made the day school Dean's list:

Richland, MO - Cameron Walker

Waynesville, MO - Jessica Collado and Aja Domineck

In the fall semester, the following student(s) made the evening school Dean's list:

Crocker, MO - Scott Greene, Ty Helms, Jaycee Sweet

Dixon, MO - Hunter Barnett, Cassidy Davis, Rob Forthman, Megan Gilbert, Teresa Johnston, Suzi Lachowicz, Lora Thompson

Fort Leonard Wood, MO -April Eberhart, Michelle Evans, Jermaine Gordon, Jonathon Hemmer, Garsan Lettman, Nijah Mc-Cray, Renee Meyer, Jonathan Montemayor, Amanda Nichols, Aimee Pineda, Bethany Price, Brandie Weisz

Laquey, Lawrence

Richland, MO - Jessica Cruz, Lisa Hulsey, Kaitlin Ledbetter, Paige Ledbetter, Chance McKay, Caitlin Starnes, Gabriel Toms

Saint Robert, MO - Sylvanus Akpan, Samantha Allen, Matthew Carlson, Tiffany Daly, Jacklyn Dutter, Nadine Gushanas, Matthew Hamilton, Jasmin Holzer, Anthony Narug, Kimberly Romero, John Spencer, David St. Onge, Sidney

Waynesville, MO - Stephanie Balbuena, Sarah Banzhaf, Lindsay

Shayleigh Holly Steen, Taylor Tetreault, Eliz- Missouri. abeth Treadway

Drury University's newly redesigned evening and online program - now called Drury GO offers four academic pathways in high-demand fields while maintaining the personalized experience and high-quality education the university is known for. GO, which stands for "Global. Online," allows students to gain new skills, earn

Cook. credentials and meet career goals in Guillermo Garcia, Jaden Jones, the way that works best for them -Bryan McDonald, Ashley Oliver, whether that's online or at one of Kiesha Rednour, Vincent Rosales, eight locations across southern Learn www.drury.edu/go.

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